

mother, he encountered a parade and was so fascinated by the music that he followed it all over town. It was not long before he began practicing on a small drum, and eventually moved on to playing on a full set. However, in his late teens he tired of carrying his drum set up and down the stairs of his apartment building, so in 1946 he switched to bass.

When he was only 19, Keter landed his first professional gig, playing for thirteen weeks in Washington, DC with saxophonist Carmen Leggio. He toured the country from 1949 through 1956, working with jazz singer Dinah Washington during the latter five years of the tour. Keter then teamed up with Charlie Byrd and Woody Herman to tour Europe and South America, before joining Ella Fitzgerald for a short tour that was the beginning of the twenty-four-year working partnership the two would share.

Over the years Keter played with many more jazz greats, such as Count Basie, Cannonball Adderly, Nat Adderly, Stan Getz, Kenny Burrell and Louis Bellson, playing venues all over the world. He was a member of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Big Band and was inducted into the Washington Area Music Association Hall of Fame. And after playing on more than 100 recordings, Keter finally released his first solo album, *Bass, Buddies & Blues* in 1998, and soon followed it up with *Bass, Buddies, Blues Beauty Too*.

In addition to performing, Keter was a long-time instructor of music at Howard University in Washington, DC beginning in 1963. He also impacted his community as an educator through his commitment to instructing young people through various programs such as the Washington Performing Arts Society's *Concerts in Schools* and Prince George's County's *Arts Alive*.

Keter Betts is widely considered to be the most accomplished and highly respected bassist in jazz history. Keter's life and music impacted countless members of younger generations not only because of the excellence and originality he brought to his art, but because of his incredible wisdom, his insight, and his firm belief that every artist must strive to be unique and find his or her true voice.

Today Keter's family and friends will come together to celebrate his impact not only on the world of jazz, but on the innumerable lives he touched and artistic journeys he inspired. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District of California and the 14th Congressional District of Michigan, we salute and thank Keter Betts for his invaluable contributions to jazz music, our country and our world.

U.S. ARMY SPC. LAURO DELEON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Army Spc. Lauro DeLeon, who died one year ago while serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lauro joined the Army Reserves before graduating from Floresville (Texas) High School in 2003, seeing the military as a way of financing a college education. He then enrolled at Palo Alto College that fall to pursue

a degree in business, but soon learned he had been called up for active duty.

Lauro went to Baghdad as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in February 2004. The Mojadi army was attacking the city, and Lauro's unit was stuck in camp for three days before making its way out of Baghdad.

During that summer of 2004, Lauro surprised his family with a return home as part of a two-week leave from the Army which he won in a lottery. Lauro, a good Christian man from a good Christian family, prayed that he would be granted the opportunity to go home to his family, and his number was the last one called.

Lauro then returned to Iraq to serve with the 644th Transportation Company. On September 8, 2004, the truck Lauro was driving went over an explosive device, killing Lauro and putting the soldier with him in critical condition.

While in Iraq, both Lauro and his mother, Grace Lopez, read a chapter a day from the Bible. She passed along a message that helped Lauro make it through the tough times: "Fear is not of God; whenever you start feeling fear, tell God to remove it." It is this faith that carried Lauro through the war, and it is this faith that continues to carry his family after his passing.

Along with all of our fallen servicemen and women, Lauro DeLeon has honored our nation by making the greatest sacrifice of all. It is the least we can do to offer these words of remembrance today. As always, our prayers remain with Lauro, his family, and all those representing our country in our Armed Forces.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the features of H.R. 6 that will make a material difference in the protection of groundwater are the provisions making key reforms to the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) program. The lack of serious attention to leaking tanks has been one of the main causes of groundwater and drinking water contamination by fuel and fuel additives. I applaud our Subcommittee Chairman, PAUL GILLMOR, who authored the LUST provisions in H.R. 6 and that I have enthusiastically included in this legislation. In addition, I agree with and support his interpretation of these provisions, as outlined in his Extension of Remarks that appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on July 28, 2005, on pages H6964-H6966. There are two specific provisions that deserve special mention.

First, in order to avoid the creation of unfunded mandates, the reference to Section 9508(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code in the newly created section 9014(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act should be considered to mean Section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code in order to reflect changes made to Title XIII, Subtitle F, Section 1362. This Section of H.R. 6 creates a new Section 6430 at the end of Subchapter B of Chapter 65. It amends Section 9508(c) by striking the existing subsection 9508(c)(2) and renumbering sub-

section 9508(c)(1) as subsection 9508(c). As the chief author of this bill, it was never my intent to see LUST defunded and this instance should not be interpreted nor construed as nothing more than a drafting error since the historical construct and intent of the provisions in section 9014(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act are consistent with past versions addressing authorizations of appropriations under Subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act. Should it be necessary, I intend to immediately pursue statutory changes necessary to ensure proper use of collected transportation fuel taxes in the LUST program under the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Second, Section 1530 on Title XV addresses additional methods to protect groundwater, including state requirements on the use of secondarily contained underground storage tank systems or conversely requiring states to use installer and manufacturer requirements. If a state chooses secondary containment, then any new installation of an underground storage tank that is within 1,000 feet of community water system or potable water well must be secondarily contained. In addition, any tank or piping that is replaced on an underground storage tank that is within 1,000 feet of a community water system or potable water well must be secondarily contained. Repairs to an underground storage tank system, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), do not trigger any secondary containment requirements and gasoline dispensers must also be addressed as part of the secondary containment strategy. If, however, a state chooses installer and manufacturer certification, as well as financial responsibility requirements, this section requires tank installers and manufacturers to follow professional guidelines for tank products or comply with one of the new statutory requirements that are similar to subsections (d) and (e) of 40 CFR 280.20. In addition, this section requires installers and manufacturers to maintain evidence of financial assurance to help pay corrective action costs that are directly relatable to a faulty tank part or installation. The lone exception to the financial assurance requirement is where a tank owner or operator, who already maintains evidence of financial responsibility under Section 9003 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, is also the installer or manufacturer of the underground storage tank. I want to make clear that with respect to the financial responsibility option, the conference report references the existing financial responsibility authority contained in section 9003(d) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act that applies to owners and operators, and as such, it is the intent of this legislation that all of the authorities and flexibilities contained in 9003(d) apply to underground storage tank installers and manufacturers in the same way that they currently apply to owners and operators of underground storage tanks.

H.R. 6 also adds a new section 3022 to Title XXX of the Energy Policy Act of 1992. The new section states: "It is the sense of Congress that Federal agencies conducting assessments of risks to human health and the environment from energy technology, production, transport, transmission, distribution, storage, use, or conservation activities shall use sound and objective scientific practices in assessing such risks, shall consider the best available science (including peer reviewed studies), and shall include a description of the

weight of the scientific evidence concerning such risks.”

For too long, documents and studies have been produced that do not reflect science, but rather a given policy bias mixed with elements of science. These documents and studies are then paraded forward as if they are risk assessments. This sense of Congress specifically finds such an approach unacceptable. I want to note that use of the weight of the scientific evidence is a specific recommendation in the 1997 Final Report of the Presidential/Congressional Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management. On page 4 of that report the Commission states: “A good risk management decision . . . is based on a careful analysis of the weight of scientific evidence that supports conclusions about a problem’s potential risks to human health and the environment.” On page 23 of that report the Commission states: “Making judgments about risk on the basis of scientific information is called ‘evaluating the weight of the evidence.’ . . . It is important that risk assessors respect the objective scientific basis of risk and procedures for making inferences in the absence of adequate data.” On page 38 of that report the Commission states: “Risk assessors and economists are responsible for providing decision-makers with the best technical information available or reasonably attainable, including evaluations of the weight of the evidence that supports different assumptions and conclusions.”

It is important the Federal agencies conform their risk assessment practices to these principles.

HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the disaster along our Gulf Coast has wrought heart-breaking devastation on a scale too staggering to comprehend. I rise to join my colleagues in extending deepest sympathies to all those who have been struck by this catastrophe. Our hearts go out to all those who are suffering.

First and foremost, we must provide effective and immediate relief to our neighbors who are the victims of this tragedy. Federal authorities must render all assistance necessary in this overwhelming national crisis.

Congress has already taken the needed steps to ensure that funds are available for assistance. This is only the beginning of relief, and when more is needed, we will provide whatever is required.

We in the San Francisco Bay Area know first hand the impact of natural disaster, and we stand ready to help. I am encouraged by the support being shown by people in the Bay Area. Emergency volunteers have been dispatched. Hundreds of survivors will be housed in San Francisco’s St. Mary’s Cathedral. California schools are opening their doors as well. In my district, Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont has offered to take in 50 displaced students. The California State Universities, the University of California at Berkeley, and Stanford are accepting others. Many people have given, and will continue to give, to established relief agencies at this critical time.

As the Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee, I also want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to our friends in the world community who have pledged to help. Secretary General Kofi Annan has acknowledged American generosity in helping others, and he has graciously offered the assistance of the United Nations in our time of need. The leaders of a broad array of countries have expressed their condolences and extended offers of aid.

All Americans can be proud of the hard and sometime heart-rending work being done by local, state and federal emergency workers now on the scene of the disaster. But it seemed that immediate emergency action arrived in slow motion last week when it was so desperately needed. Those who were watching the news reports, as well as those who were hurting in the midst of the devastation, were united in one question: Why did the rescue efforts take so long? Now other questions are beginning to arise. We must answer them in order to do better in the event of another emergency. Even the President indicates that the response to this one has been less than acceptable.

When the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was formed in 2002, I voiced concern about folding into it the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). After failing to adequately respond to Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and Hurricane Andrew in 1992, FEMA had reestablished itself as a singularly responsive federal agency by clearly defining its mission and aggressively pursuing it. It was not helpful to change its structure and culture only a few years later in order to fit into the massive and newly created Department.

I believe our primary purpose in establishing the DHS was to better protect the nation through better prevention and response to catastrophe. We have yet to demonstrate improved prevention, and in this case our response has been pathetically sluggish. Confusion and lack of leadership dominate our efforts. I call on President Bush to take swift action to relieve FEMA Director Michael Brown of his duties.

I also join with Ranking Members WAXMAN, OBERSTAR, and THOMPSON in requesting that the committees of jurisdiction, the Committee on Government Reform, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Homeland Security, conduct hearings on the questions raised in responding to Hurricane Katrina.

And finally, I advocate the establishment of a blue ribbon, non-partisan committee on the scope and with the clout of the 9–11 Commission to prepare a long-range and thorough investigation into this matter, in order to lay out the lessons learned. We need to find out what went wrong, what went right, and what we can do how we can do to brace for a future disaster. We need to ensure that a similar natural event, or even a major terrorist attack, is not made any worse by our own failure to respond with speed, efficiency, and real compassion rather than rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, let’s work together to help our neighbors and friends whose lives stood in the path of destruction. And let’s do a better job of shielding our nation against such events.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
CUBAN BOLLERO SINGER
IBRAHIM FERRER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of legendary Cuban musician Ibrahim Ferrer, who died Saturday August 6, after suffering multiple organ failure.

Ibrahim Ferrer was at the center of the Buena Vista Social Club, a phenomenon that brought long delayed international fame to a group of older Cuban musicians thanks to a Grammy-winning 1997 album produced by Ry Cooder and a subsequent film by Wim Wenders, both by that name. Besides offering American audiences a musician’s-eye view of Cuba, the film created a recognition of Mr. Ferrer as an unlikely musical icon.

Mr. Ferrer’s story is particularly inspiring to me because it speaks to the limitless possibilities of talent and chance. He was a gifted musician but of all the larger-than-life personalities that make up the Buena Vista Social Club, Ibrahim Ferrer seemed the least likely to emerge as an international superstar. Yet within three years of his first international tours with the Afro-Cuban All Stars outside of Cuba in 1996, Mr. Ferrer was filling the world’s great venues and receiving rapturous ovations from audiences for whom he had become the embodiment—the heart and soul—of the multi-million-selling Buena Vista phenomenon.

Mr. Ferrer, a bolero singer who was compared to Nat King Cole, was born in Santiago in eastern Cuba on February 20, 1927, and began singing professionally in 1941. In the 1950s, he was an established singer who performed with well-known Cuban bands, including that of the legendary Benny More. But sadly, Ferrer was a forgotten name by the mid-1990s, supplementing a meager state pension by shining shoes. He was lifted from obscurity by the 1997 Buena Vista Social Club recording brought together by Texas guitarist Ry Cooder that shot a group of vintage Cuban musicians to international fame and an unexpected second career.

Mr. Ferrer was a man who was full of life and energy. Even in his seventies he could still salsa dance with the best of them. He was a musical powerhouse and an animated figure that clearly enjoyed performing Cuba’s traditional “son” music of the 1940s and 1950s for new generations of fans.

I extend my condolences to his lovely wife and six children. Mr. Ferrer and his music are truly an inspiration to both Cubans and people throughout the world. His life and music are a testament to the vibrancy and resilience of Cuban people.

Creating some of Cuba’s most rhythmic and dynamic music, Mr. Ferrer accomplished an enormous feat because despite the constraints of the U.S. embargo, his music was able to break through and Americans responded to it with overwhelming enthusiasm. His life legacy as a musician demonstrate the kind of beauty and musical genius that can come out of a relationship with Cuba and it is my hope that the failed U.S. embargo against Cuba will be lifted soon to permit the enrichment of an enhanced cultural exchange to the benefit of the people